

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

UNCLAS STATE 084560

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BA

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASTM REGULATIONS

REF: MANAMA 654

1. ASTM STANDARDS ARE PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS WHOSE OFFICE IS LOCATED IN PHILADELPHIA. THERE ARE 48 VOLUMES CONSISTING OF OVER 3,000 PAGES IN THE SERIES, EACH OF WHICH LISTS DIFFERENT STANDARDS FOR PRODUCTION. THE 1976 COMPILATION OF ASTM STANDARDS IN BUILDING CODES (TWO THICK VOLUMES) WOULD APPEAR TO BE THE REGULATIONS REFERRED TO IN REFTEL. COST IS 89.75 DOLS FOR THE TWO VOLUMES.

2. ASTM UNWILLING TO SUPPLY VOLUMES GRATIS AS THEY ARE A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION WHICH MAKES MOST OF THEIR MONEY THROUGH SALE OF THEIR PUBLICATIONS. CAGNE LACKS FUNDING TO PURCHASE THE STANDARDS BUT DID CONTACT A NUMBER OF U.S. GOVERNMENT (INCLUDING AID IN WASHINGTON) AND PRIVATE
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(INCL. THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS) AGENCIES TO SEE IF ANY OF THEM WILLING TO PURCHASE THE STUDIES. ALTHOUGH CAGNE POINTED OUT ADVANTAGES THAT COULD ACCRUE TO U.S. CONSTRUCTION FIRMS IF U.S. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

WERE USED, NONE HAD ANY READILY AVAILABLE FUNDS.

3. CAGNE ALSO CONTACTED ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL HOME BUILDERS TO SEE IF WILLING PURCHASE PUBLICATION. ASSOCIATION QUESTIONED WHETHER STANDARDS BOOK WAS REALLY NEEDED BY EMB BECAUSE IT IS HIGHLY TECHNICAL: I.E. ONE 45 PAGE SECTION DESCRIBES HOW THINGS MUST BE BURNT TO DETERMINE FIRE RATINGS. THEY POINTED OUT THAT LOCAL FIRMS NEEDED ONLY TO KNOW WHAT THE RATING ARE (CLASS 4, 3 ETC) AND NOT HOW TO TEST THE MATERIALS. ONCE LOCAL

FIRM LEARNS THE CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION "RATINGS" IT CAN CONTACT THE PROSPECTIVE SELLER TO DETERMINE WHETHER HIS STANDARD PRODUCTS MEET THEM.

4. IF EMB STILL FEELS STANDARDS WOULD BE USEFUL, PLEASE FURNISH APPROPRIATE FISCAL DATA TO PURCHASE VOLUMES THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS (NOTE: PUBLICATION NUMBER IS 03-001476-10). EMBASSY ALSO MIGHT FIND IT USEFUL TO CONTACT LOCAL AID OFFICE TO ASCERTAIN IF THEY CAN MAKE PURCHASE AS IT MIGHT FALL WITHIN THEIR PROGRAM OF PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. VANCE

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